

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1 1. A method comprising:
2 receiving one or more digits of a candidate communication number;
3 searching a database for a communication number corresponding to the one or
4 more digits of the candidate communication number;
5 locating within the database a communication number corresponding to the one or
6 more digits of the candidate communication number; and
7 transmitting a located communication number to a presenting location prior to
8 receiving an entire candidate communication number.

1 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the communication number comprises a
2 telephone number.

1 3. The method of claim 2, wherein the database contains one or more
2 telephone numbers previously dialed from a telephone.

1 4. The method of claim 2, wherein the database contains one or more
2 telephone numbers of one or more devices previously attempting to establish a
3 connection with a telephone.

1 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the database is located in a telephony
2 system.

1 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the database is located in the telephone.

1 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting location comprises the
2 telephone.

1 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the presenting location comprises a data
2 display location of the electronic system.

1 9. The method of claim 1, wherein the database is located in a computer
2 network.

1 10. The method of claim 1, wherein searching the database for the
2 communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate
3 communication number comprises searching the database after receiving each digit
4 following a group of the one or more digits of the candidate communication number.

1 11. The method of claim 1, wherein transmitting the located communication
2 number to the presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate communication
3 number comprises:

4 transmitting one or more located communication numbers corresponding to the
5 one or more digits of the candidate communication number from the database to the
6 presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate communication number; and

7 reducing the one or more located communication numbers, as the one or more
8 located communication numbers fail to contain each subsequently received digit of the
9 candidate communication number.

1 12. A method comprising:
2 receiving from a digit inputter of a telephone a partial telephone number having
3 one or more digits corresponding to a candidate communication number;
4 searching a database for a telephone number corresponding to the partial
5 telephone number;
6 locating in the database one or more telephone numbers corresponding to the
7 partial telephone number; and
8 returning to a display screen of the telephone one or more located telephone
9 numbers, prior to receiving an entire candidate telephone number.

1 13. The method of claim 12, wherein the digit inputter comprises a telephone
2 keypad.

1 14. The method of claim 12, wherein the digit inputter comprises a voice-
2 activated dialing mechanism.

1 15. The method of claim 12, wherein the database is located in the telephone.

1 16. The method of claim 12, wherein the database is located in a telephony
2 system.

1 17. The method of claim 12, wherein the database contains one or more
2 telephone numbers previously dialed from the telephone.

1 18. The method of claim 12, wherein the database contains one or more
2 telephone numbers of one or more incoming telephone calls to the telephone.

1 19. The method of claim 12, further comprising:
2 receiving a selection indication to select a located telephone number appearing on
3 the display screen of the telephone; and
4 dialing, as a result of receiving the selection indication, a selected located
5 telephone number appearing on the display screen of the telephone.

1 20. An article of manufacture comprising:
2 a machine-accessible medium including thereon sequences of instructions that,
3 when executed, cause an electronic system to:
4 receive one or more digits of a candidate communication number;
5 search a database for a communication number corresponding to the one or more
6 digits of the candidate communication number;
7 locate within the database a communication number corresponding to the one or
8 more digits of the candidate communication number; and

9 transmit a located communication number to a presenting location prior to
10 receiving an entire candidate communication number.

1 21. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to receive one or more
3 digits of the candidate communication number comprise sequences of instructions that,
4 when executed, cause the electronic system to receive the one or more digits of a
5 candidate telephone number.

1 22. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the sequences of
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause
5 the electronic system to search a database containing one or more telephone numbers
6 previously dialed from a telephone for the communication number corresponding to the
7 one or more digits of the candidate communication number.

1 23. The article of manufacture of claim 21, wherein the sequences of
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause
5 the electronic system to search a database containing one or more telephone numbers of
6 one or more devices previously attempting to establish a connection with a telephone for

7 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate
8 communication number.

1 24. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause
5 the electronic system to search a database located in a telephony system for the
6 communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate
7 communication number.

1 25. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to search the database for
3 the communication number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause
5 the electronic system to search a database located in the telephone for the communication
6 number corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate communication number.

1 26. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to transmit the located
3 communication number to the presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause

5 the electronic system to transmit the located communication number to a telephone prior
6 to receiving the entire candidate communication number.

1 27. The article of manufacture of claim 20, wherein the sequences of
2 instructions that, when executed, cause the electronic system to transmit the located
3 communication number to the presenting location prior to receiving the entire candidate
4 communication number comprise sequences of instructions that, when executed, cause
5 the electronic system to:

6 transmit one or more located communication numbers corresponding to the one or
7 more digits of the candidate communication number from the database to the presenting
8 location prior to receiving the entire candidate communication number; and

9 reduce the one or more located communication numbers, as the one or more
10 located communication numbers fail to contain each subsequently received digit of the
11 candidate communication number.

1 28. An apparatus comprising:

2 a communication number digits receiver to receive one or more digits of a
3 candidate communication number;

4 a communication number searcher coupled with the communication number digits
5 receiver to search a database for a communication number corresponding to the one or
6 more digits of the candidate communication number; and

7 a communication number transmitter coupled with the communication number
8 searcher to transmit to a presenting location one or more located communication numbers

9 corresponding to the one or more digits of the candidate communication number prior to
10 receiving an entire candidate communication number.

1 29. The apparatus of claim 28, wherein the communication number comprises
2 a telephone number.

1 30. The method of claim 29, wherein the presenting location comprises a
2 telephone.

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